Diana, Tatsu, and the Metropolis Librarian

Posted originally on the Archive of Our Own at https://archiveofourown.org/works/58768378.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	Gen
Fandoms:	Toshokan Sensou | Library War, Steven Universe (Cartoon), Cardcaptor Sakura (Anime & Manga), Zevo-3 (Cartoon), The Simpsons, She-Ra: Princess Of Power (1985), We Bare Bears (Cartoon), DC Super Hero Girls (Cartoon 2019), Mysticons (Cartoon), ヤミと帽子と本の旅人 | Yami to Boushi to Hon no Tabibito, She-Ra and the Princesses of Power (2018)
Relationship:	Diana (Wonder Woman) & Tatsu Yamashiro
Characters:	Kasahara Iku, Yellow Zircon (Steven Universe), Tatsu Yamashiro, Diana (Wonder Woman), Blue Zircon (Steven Universe), Entrapta (She-Ra), Barbara Gordon, Kara Danvers, Zatanna Zatara, Jessica Cruz, Karen Beecher, Harley Quinn (DC Super Hero Girls), Librarian (DC Super Hero Girls), Librarian (She-Ra: Princess of Power), Librarian (Steven Universe), Queen Hippolyta (DC Super Hero Girls)
Additional Tags:	Libraries, Librarians, Crossovers & Fandom Fusions, Crossover, Background characters - Freeform, Kara Danvers says fuck, Minor Harley Quinn reference, Trials, judges, Lawyers, Metropolis (DCU), Friendship, Justice, Tribunals, jurors - Freeform, Gotham City is Terrible, library defense force, Books, Not sure if I will continue this series or not, But if I do continue the series it won't be a for a while, accountability, library users, Stereotypes, Rules, Play Fighting, biased courts, Questioning, harsh questioning, Humor, Female Friendship, Vegetarians & Vegans, Podfic Welcome, Constructive Criticism Welcome
Language:	English
Series:	Part 1 of Tales of the Librarian Tribunal
Stats:	Published: 2024-09-07 Words: 5,147 Chapters: 1/1

Diana, Tatsu, and the Metropolis Librarian

by lefemmerouge

Summary

The Librarian Tribunal is in session and they mean business. This supernatural body ensures that citizens are treated fairly as patrons by their respective librarians and libraries. Can they deliver justice or will be derailed by the legalistic arguments of the defense… only time will tell what these librarian jurors will decide!

Notes

I don't remember how I got the idea for this fic, but when I started it, I just rolled with it! While some characters, like Iku, Yellow Zircon, Tatsu Yamashiro, Diana, Blue Zircon, and Entrapta, are well-known enough to include, others are not. This includes the six jury members. I only added two of those, the librarians in episodes of She-Ra: Princess of Power and Steven Universe, with specifics of all those on the jury listed in the end notes of this fic. I loosely based this trial on civil court cases in the U.S., but some elements of criminal trials have seeped in as well. Anyway, it was fun to put a different spin on events within the episode, "#SoulSisters Part 2" in one of my favorite shows, making clear that superheroes are not above the law, and the tension between librarians and patrons/library users at times, while shedding some light on common librarian stereotypes. The name of the librarian, "Elbykrmi D. Krsboo" is a scrambled-up version of the talented voice actor for that librarian (Kimberly D. Brooks), and is not a canon name, to be clear, which is why I described her as "Librarian (DC Super Hero Girls)" in the character list. I have other fics in progress like this one, which look at actions by librarians against library users in some of my favorite animated series. I may continue this series, but its a toss-up between whether I do or don't. I just wanted to get this fic out there before its lost on my computer or something.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 12/14/24: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World and the revisions there have been moved here, updating the fic.

Update #2 on 10/19/25: My second Library War fic, featuring Iku, is "A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections." Check it out if you get the chance!

See the end of the work for more notes

A gavel hit the table. One voice spoke definitively. "The Librarian Tribunal is in session. Today we have the case of *The People of Metropolis v. Metropolis Public Library*."

Iku Kasahara, the 22-year-old brown-haired judge, who wore greenish robes, stopped speaking for a second. This case was important to her. She was dedicated to freedom of expression. She would put herself in the line of fire to protect books as a member of the Library Defense Force, and, more specifically, the Library Task Force.

In this instance, she served as a judge of the Librarian Tribunal, a body created by the World Librarians Accountability Board, a supranational organization meant to ensure that citizens were treated fairly as patrons by their respective libraries and librarians. Citizens could file cases about such abuse to the board. Each case would be examined by a team of experts, screened for validity, and then brought before the tribunal.

Hundreds of thousands of cases were submitted each year. Only a small percentage were ruled on by the tribunal. Each case was heard in the jurisdiction that the complaint was originally filed and held in public buildings, such as courthouses. Public trials, which could be watched in person or virtually, which were held by the tribunal functioned similarly to a civil trial. Plaintiffs had to prove beyond a preponderance of the evidence that there was more than 50% chance the claim, or claims, presented by the plaintiffs, were true.

These trials had a judge and jury. While the jury can award damages to the claimant(s), transfer property, or rule in favor of an injunction prohibiting specific actions, they could also send the defendant(s) to the Grand Library. Once there, the defendant could either work for the head librarian or be sent to a "book world" where they would live out the rest of their days and be removed from society! This gave the jury a lot of latitude in their rulings.

Iku grumbled. She *knew* this case would be challenging. She looked at the prosecution, headed by a Gem woman with oversized shoes, a light-colored vest, a tinted necktie, and pale green-yellow pants. "Are you ready to proceed, counselor?" Yellow Zircon nodded. Her one black eye stared at Iku. A yellow monocle covered her other eye. Her square-shaped gemstone was located where a tie knot would usually be, if she was wearing a suitcoat and tie. Her chartreuse hair shone in the overhead light.

Iku instructed her: "You may continue with your opening statement."

Looking at the jury, she cleared her throat. She had to be convincing. She began presenting her argument:

> Your honor, in this case before this tribunal, we charge the librarian of Metropolis Public Library, Ms. Elbykrmi D. Krsboo, with not adequately serving the people of Metropolis by excessive shushing, and being generally hostile, to the plaintiffs, Ms. Diana Prince, and Ms. Tatsu Yamashiro. As you will hear today, we will prove, beyond a preponderance of evidence, that the actions of Ms. Krsboo were uncalled for, and that other remedies could have been pursued. We further argue that Ms. Krsboo caused emotional distress for Ms. Prince and Ms. Yamashiro, through their unreasonable expulsion from the library building.

Iku nodded. She wanted to hear from the defense. Considering both sides was an important part of any trial.

"Thank you, miss. You may be seated. I would like to hear from the Defense team. Are you ready to give an opening statement?"

Blue Zircon smiled. She was ready. She had defended Steven Universe, *of all people*. Unlike that case, in defending the librarian, she had a much sounder argument. She began her statement.

> Your honor, the City of Metropolis contests the absurd charges that Ms. Krsboo has not adequately served the people of Metropolis by engaging in excessive shushing and general hostility. As you will hear in today's oral argument, we will prove that the librarian's actions were justified. The activities of the plaintiffs caused disturbed other patrons. They violated verbally stated, and posted, rules which called for, in part, no loud fighting or use of cell phones. Furthermore, damage to the library's stacks, caused by the fight between Ms. Prince and Ms. Yamashiro, resulted in the closure of the library for two weeks to fix the destruction they left behind. As a result, patrons from all levels of society which use the library day in, and day out were inconvenienced. We call for all charges to be dismissed.

Iku watched Blue Zircon carefully. Her case appeared sound. On the other hand, she knew it would be an uphill battle to show that the plaintiff's charges were untrue. "Thank you, counselor. You may be seated."

Turning to Yellow Zircon, she continued her remarks. "The lawyer for the Plaintiff can now proceed."

Iku nodded. She hoped that her case would be successful. She was a bit nervous. This was the *first case* she had tried in a human courtroom. "Thank you, your honor."

She looked into the audience. She spied one woman with golden blonde hair. While it appeared that she would be called up to the stand, this did not happen, at least *not yet*. Instead, there was a person at the plaintiff's table, who wore a red-sleeved shirt, a short blue skirt, long white socks, red slip-on shoes, and visible red star earrings. She would be a key witness for their case.

"I would like to call Diana Prince to the stand."

Walking up to the podium, the trial's bailiff stared at Diana. It was her job to make sure that everyone had sworn testimony. "Do you solemnly swear that you will tell the truth, under pains and penalties of perjury?," the bailiff asked.

She nodded. She responded, "I do sincerely declare and affirm that my testimony will be truthful."

Diana sat in the witness box. Yellow Zircon approached. She began her examination. "Ms. Prince, please explain to the court why you were at the Metropolis Public Library on the day in question."

She stared intently at her lawyer's olive-yellow eyelids and long slim nose.

She wanted to make sure she was answering *the best* she could. This would be an important part of her case, to reassert the case's credibility for the jury. It could *also encourage* interest from local and national TV news crews filming the trial and even arouse public sympathy.

"Certainly, counselor," she began. “I was looking on a shelf within the library for an old book. I sat down at a nearby table and began reading the book. Not long after, I decided to call my friend, Tatsu, to ask her about it."

The Zircon came closer. She wanted to establish the chain of events that day. It would be a key part of proving that her client was being truthful. "Following this, what happened next?" Diana took a deep breath.

She obviously couldn't say *everything*. Exposing her secret identity would be disastrous. She and Tatsu, also known as Katana, had made a pact to only tell *part* of the story.

"I pressed the wrong buttons, I admit, and accidentally called the Metropolis Department of Water and Power. I couldn't shut off my phone. It was very loud."

The Zircon nodded. She knew the story, as Diana and Tatsu told it, already, but she wanted to make sure everyone else heard it. So, she asked something else. "Ms. Prince, what happened following this…phone-ringing?"

Diana sighed. She did *not* like admitting she had done something wrong. Even so, she had committed herself to being as truthful *as she could*. She always tried to fulfill her promises whenever possible and be faithful to her friends.

"I saw Ms. Krsboo shush me with her finger and point to a sign saying, 'no cell phones.' I *apologized* to the librarian. I was unable to shut off my phone at that time."

Yellow Zircon liked where the testimony was going. She was pleased to see one of the members on the jury, an elderly White man in a blue robe and with long-white hair, stroking his beard. He was *clearly* thinking about what Ms. Prince was saying. She interpreted this as a good sign. "Ms. Prince, when did the ringing of your phone stop?"

Diana realized she would have to explain this. Tatsu was her friend. She didn’t see anything wrong with telling the truth about it.

"Well, miss, it finally stopped ringing when Tatsu turned it off. I'm *not* always the best with technology. We then talked in whispers for a bit…until we got into an argument."

Blue Zircon snickered. She contemplated ways to use this testimony in her upcoming cross-examination of Diana. Yellow Zircon groaned. She *did not* want to ask what the argument was about, since she did not see that as material to this case. "I see. When you argued, was it verbal, physical, or a combination of both?"

Diana shook her head. She did not want to talk about this, since it could weaken their case. Despite this, she told the truth *anyway*.

"Both. I wish it was not so, but the librarian shushed my friend, Tatsu, and pointed to a sign saying, 'No Loud Fighting!' in big letters."

She continued. She said something which she *hoped* would bolster her case after that admission.

"The librarian, Ms. Krsboo, shushed me when I asked about her sign, then told me that the sign was 'the best we can hope for' in the city. Me and Tatsu remained apologetic."

Yellow Zircon felt a little better. The testimony seemed to be on firmer footing. She still wanted to know the last part of the story. "After you talked with the librarian, what did you do next?"

Diana exhaled deeply. She knew that fighting in the library was a no-no. On the other hand, not talking about it would be a mistake.

"Miss, I continued silently fighting with Ms. Tatsu, climbed up a bookshelf to stop a stone bust from falling. In the process, we *accidentally* caused the library shelves to fall over like dominoes, creating a lot of dust."

She then talked about something which still made her sad and regretful: how they left the library.

"The librarian was *very* angry. She growled at us and threw us out of the door, then locking the inside. Me and Tatsu *apologized*, and we went on our merry ways."

This satisfied Yellow Zircon. Their case had started out much stronger than she had expected, thanks to Diana’s testimony. Even so, none of the others on the jury seemed to show much interest, or sympathy, toward Diana’s testimony. Iku motioned to Blue Zircon. "Your witness." Blue Zircon prepared for her cross-examination. She approached the witness box where Diana was still sitting.

"Ms. Prince, would you call yourself a studious person?" She nodded. She grinned and was more than happy to answer. She thought it would improve her likability with the jury.

"I would. I get those habits from my *wonderful* mother."

Blue Zircon scratched her chin. This had not been the response she had been expecting. Even so, she could use it to her advantage.

"How would you feel if someone's phone rang loudly near where you were studying?"

Diana produced an answer instinctively. She knew what she would say. "I would be very annoyed. I need *perfect* concentration, without disturbances."

Yellow Zircon face palmed herself. Diana had fallen into Blue Zircon's trap.

She snickered. "That being the case, Ms. Prince, why would you do the same to other people in the library, who need similar concentration, especially those trying to focus on their studies?"

Diana shrugged her shoulders. She wasn't sure what to say and was a bit flustered. She blurted out, without much thought, the following words: "I didn't mean to…it was an accident…I *usually* follow the rules and respect them."

Blue Zircon approached the bench. This was the opening she had been waiting for.

Walking back to the defense table, where Ms. Krsboo sat, patiently, she grabbed a stack of papers. "I would like to submit to the court, depositions from *16 patrons* at the library on the day in question, all of whom attest to the disruptive nature of Ms. Prince and Ms. Yamashiro, four of whom specifically note fighting between the plaintiffs."

Iku looked at Yellow Zircon, who was shaking. She realized this must be hard, but she had no basis to reject this. So, Iku voiced her approval. "I'll allow it. Ms. Entrapta, please add it to the evidence for this trial." Entrapta nodded. She liked working on this trial as a court reporter. She hoped to work on other trials in the future. She grabbed the papers and put them in a stack on her desk.

Yellow Zircon was sunk. She did not know how this could get any worse. She hoped that the cross-examination of Diana wouldn't get any harsher.

Blue Zircon approached the witness box again. "Ms. Prince, would you describe *yourself* as a rule follower?"

Diana smiled. She would gladly answer in the affirmative. She saw it as important. "I do. I try and follow rules whenever, and wherever I can."

She scratched her chin. This conflicted with what happened at the Metropolis Public Library that day.

She used Diana’s words against her. "Were you following the rules when your cell phone rang loudly, and you loudly fought your friend? Or was this another 'accident' where you forgot to follow the rules?"

Yellow Zircon stood up. She would not stand for this. "Objection! Leading the witness."

Iku had to agree with the plaintiffs on this one. Blue Zircon had clearly gone *too far*. "Sustained," she remarked.

Blue Zircon was annoyed. She half expected this outcome. She appreciated that that the jury members were not pleased with Diana's testimony.

The jury foreperson, a fair-skinned young woman with a pale taupe skin complexion and brown hair tied up in a bun, was conservatively dressed in blue blazer, grey undershirt, and two earrings, one in each ear. She was listening *very* attentively. She had a look of annoyance on her face. What Diana had been saying made her *furious*. This pleased Blue Zircon greatly. She believed that her case became more compelling by the minute.

She came in for the kill, with new inquiries intended to break her. "Ms. Prince, have you used the Metropolis Public Library since the incident?"

Diana shook her head. She had not gone there since that day. She decided to explain how she truly felt.

"To be frank, Miss, I am *afraid* of going back, after being banned by Ms. Krsboo, that curmudgeon. I would rather use *other resources*."

Blue Zircon shook her head. She decided to ask one more thing. She believed it would help her case, even more.

"Would you say that a librarian has the right to tell patrons to quiet down if they are too loud and to kick out those who causes disturbances?"

Diana honestly answered this one. She had enough self-realization to see that this was one of Blue Zircon's traps. She knew she had to answer it the best she could.

"Yes, I do…Miss…but in this case…"

Before she could say any more, the lawyer cut her off. She had all she needed. She then asked the clincher, which would decide the case, at least she hoped.

"Do you believe that Ms. Krsboo was right to shush you and Ms. Yamashiro and kick you both out after you both destroyed a sizable portion of the library's collections?"

Yellow Zircon tried to block Diana from answering. She knew the case would be over if she answered.

"Objection. Leading question."

Iku thought about this objection. She wanted to rule the right way. She wanted to be fair. She couldn't sustain *every* objection.

"Overruled," she said. Many in the audience gasped. They were shocked she had ruled this way, *knowing* it was a leading question. Any rational person would have thought the same thing.

Diana gulped. She had to answer. "If we go by the rules, then yes…but if we go by any other measure, then…no."

Blue Zircon guffawed. She couldn't believe her ears. Diana had given her *exactly* what she had wanted.

"Any other measure? The *rules* are what is in dispute here, Ms. Prince. The librarian followed them to the letter. *You* are not the one who makes the rules, the librarian, the city of Metropolis *is*. We do not want to become like Gotham City."

This really made Diana start to doubt herself. She felt ashamed.

The White middle-aged woman, with a light green blazer, grey collared shirt, and brown hair, sitting on the jury, shook her head. There were similar responses from the Japanese woman with a blue blazer, brown skirt, and brown flats, and an elderly White woman with a White

collared shirt, purple sweater, reading glasses, and nicely brushed grey hair, both of whom were also on the jury.

Yellow Zircon was speechless, as were her friends who had come to watch the trial. Blue Zircon believed they had been vindicated. She was overjoyed.

"Your honor, I have *no more* questions at this time."

Blue Zircon's cross-examination had decimated arguments from the plaintiffs in one fell swoop. It appeared the City of Metropolis would win the case.

Although she could have asked for clarification in a redirect examination, called re-examination in some jurisdictions, she decided to not do so.

"I have *no* further questions, your honor," she said, solemnly. This surprised Iku, as she had expected some additional examination from Yellow Zircon.

Iku believed that while the defense's case was solid, her opinion could be swayed the opposite way. Yellow Zircon had one last ploy: character witnesses.

"Your honor, I would like to present, as evidence, written statements from Barbara Gordon, Kara Danvers, Zee Zatara, Jessica Cruz, and Karen Beecher attesting to the good character of Ms. Diana Prince."

Iku did not expect this. Like the evidence submitted by the defense, she had no reason to reject it. She banged her gavel. "It is allowed."

She motioned to Entrapta to put it within the evidence which had been collected for the trial. She compiled with this request.

"I would like to call Queen Hippolyta to the stand." She would be a character witness for Diana.

Exhausted by the trial and Blue Zircon's grueling ~~interrogation~~ questioning, she told Yellow Zircon and Tatsu that she had to leave for a second. They were fine with this, since she had been through so much already.

Tatsu whispered to her, "it's OK, take your time. We'll win this, don't you worry. Don't beat yourself up over it." She smiled. Walking to the bathroom, the TV cameras focused on her walking out of the courtroom, looking dejected.

She slumped to the ground after she entered the bathroom. She never thought going through a trial would be this hard. She breathed deeply. She tried to maintain her composure.

"You can do this, Diana," she said, speaking into the mirror. She splashed water on her face and prepared to re-enter the courtroom.

When she came back, she realized that she had been gone for a while. Her mom, Queen Hippolyta, had left the stand. A document attesting the cost of the repairs to the library, over $100,000, had been submitted as evidence.

The person on the stand was none other than the *librarian herself*. "I warned them three times, first silently and pointing to the 'No Cell Phones' sign, secondly with a verbal shush and pointing to the 'No Loud Fighting' sign, and thirdly verbally shushing." Blue Zircon shook her head.

She asked something else, hoping to clarify.

"Ms. Krsboo, would you say that the plaintiffs followed the library rules and understood your warnings?"

She looked at Blue Zircon nervously. She never liked to put down patrons of a library. But, she had to be honest.

"They *seem* like good kids, but they were *not* following the rules. I had no choice but to kick them out and ban them. I did not want to, but they *forced* me into that situation."

The yellow-skinned middle-aged librarian, who wore a pink blouse, and had her hair tied up in a ponytail, could sympathize, as could the other five members on the jury, who also had library backgrounds.

Ms. Krsboo went on to explain how she had been, late that night, after the library had closed, been pushing a cart of books through the library and saw a bright blue light go shooting through the sky, something which was so bright she had to look away. Tatsu and Diana looked at each other. They hoped she didn't know anything else.

"No further questions, your honor," Blue Zircon said. As it seemed that the defense would rest their case, as Ms. Krsboo had already given her testimony, the Zircon snickered.

Iku looked at her, very confused. *Why* would she act this way?

Yellow Zircon approached the bench with one piece of paper. "I would like to submit the written deposition of Mr. Snellson. He is a large snail who enforces rules in the Library of the Eternal Equinox, priding himself on running a quiet, safe, and *happy* library, just like Ms. Krsboo." While this was a strange addition, Iku didn't see the harm it would do to be added to the evidence for this trial.

Any sort of evidence like this would help the jury reach a determination. "I will allow it." She then handed the papers to Entrapta, who had been making sure the papers of this case were in order.

Diana, Tatsu, Yellow Zircon, and their friends were disappointed. A bit sleepy and having trouble keeping herself awake, Diana heard the closing statements of the two Zircons, although she didn't pay attention to either one.

She heard Iku instructing the jury to rule on the case's merits and come back with a decision. Even so, she had wide latitude to rule on the case. However, such rulings were rare, meaning they often didn't happen.

After about an hour, the jury re-entered and walked back to their seats. Diana, Tatsu, and her friends waited in anticipation.

"Have you come to a decision?" Iku asked, staring at the jury foreperson. The woman nodded. She began reading their statement:

> In our unanimous opinion, we find that the testimony asserted by the plaintiffs does not prove, beyond a preponderance of the evidence, the charges against Ms. Krsboo. We further state that the plaintiffs must issue a public apology to Ms. Krsboo and pay monetary damages equivalent to the materials and property damaged due to actions by the plaintiffs.

Diana and Tatsu's mouths were left gaping open. Both knew that the possibility of winning this case was *slim*, but neither had expected an outcome like *this*. It made them distrust the entire so-called justice system. Iku had something to say before the case ended as well:

> This was a hard case for...all of us. I appreciate the testimony given by Ms. Prince, Ms. Krsboo, and written depositions. It is *often said* that the customer is always right. That is *not* always true. In this case, the customers, or more correctly the library users, specifically Ms. Prince and Ms. Yamashiro, are in the wrong. Whether Ms. Krsboo was a curmudgeon or not, as Ms. Prince stated in her testimony, she has a sworn duty to serve the people of Metropolis and acted within her rights to enforce library rules and ban the plaintiffs from the Metropolis Public Library. I would urge the plaintiffs to learn more about the duties of a librarian and recognize their error in judgment in filing this frivolous case.

Her gavel hit the table. "The case of the plaintiffs is *dismissed*. The plaintiffs are ordered to pay damages and issue a public apology as stated by the jury."

Out of nowhere, the brick wall behind her fell away. It crumbled to the ground. The jury, audience, and everyone in the room were befuddled.

Iku ripped off her green judges' uniform in one motion, revealing a green military-like uniform adorned with a brown belt, and black combat boots. "I must go to…defend the books!" she shouted, running toward, then jumping aboard, an awaiting helicopter. It moved into the air, flying away in the blink of an eye.

A group of workers were already repairing the wall and quickly stacking the bricks, hiding this secret entrance from everyone else in *record time*. It all seemed so unbelievable.

Kara, in an expression of disbelief, remarked, "*what the fuck* was that?" Her friends shrugged. No one had any idea what happened or why Iku had to leave so quickly. Even if they had known that she was a librarian who defended books from censorship and had a secret life (in a sense) like theirs, their opinion of her *likely* would have been the same.

Diana walked out of the courtroom, with her friends behind her, remaining in a state of confusion, like everyone else. After opening courthouse doors, she and her friends were ambushed by print and TV news reporters.

She snapped back to reality. "Ms. Prince, what are your thoughts on today's ruling?" one asked.

As their shouting continued, Yellow Zircon stood in front of Diana and Tatsu. She stared down the reporters. "My clients will not be speaking to the press at this time."

One reporter approached. He thought that perhaps she could comment on the case instead. "As their lawyer, do you have any comment on this decision?" She sighed. She wanted to shield Diana and Tatsu from any queries about the case.

> I do have a comment on behalf of my clients. This tribunal is supposed to dispense justice. The motto of the World Librarians Accountability Board is 'for equal treatment under the law for all patrons against librarian abuse.' This ruling shows that to be a lie. The board would rather side with an overly strict librarian than two library users. It tells you whose side the board is on.

Diana and Tatsu were surprised by the boldness of her statement. Both restrained themselves from saying anything, keeping their mouths shut, as they walked away. When a reporter got near to Tatsu, she hissed at him. He backed off.

Sometime later, the girls spent time together at Sweet Justice, their favorite frozen dairy café. Not only did they love this restaurant, but it hosted their secret base below the store itself.

Jess, Babs, Kara, Zee, and Karen were understandably concerned about Diana. Tatsu cared too, but had her own stuff to do. She was closer to Diana, than the other five, and tended to *only* hang out with her. While Babs and Zee quietly ate their ice cream, Jess tried to be as caring as she could.

"Diana, are you OK? That trial was…rough."

She looked at her friend with sad eyes. She began crying. Tears flowed out like a waterfall. It almost seemed like *everything* was going wrong.

"Man, this is even bumming me out," Kara said. Even so, she joined in with Babs, Zee, Jess, and Karen, hugging Diana in hopes of making her feel better about herself. It helped a little bit.

"Can we go somewhere a little more private?"

The girls knew what she meant. She wanted to go down to their base. They were ok with that. After Karen placed a container of straws in the center of the table and pushed down on it, Babs threw a smoke bomb to disguise their exit, since a lot of people were in the café. It worked perfectly, allowing them to easily slide down into the base.

Once inside, Diana flopped down on one of the three couches, while Babs, Kara, and Zee lounged across another couch, with Jess and Karen stretching out across another.

"You shouldn't be so hard on yourself, Diana," Kara began.

Karen jumped in. She wanted to reassure Diana. "Yeah, you are kinda brave to go up there and do that whole trial thingy…I'd be too nervous."

Babs nodded. She felt the same way. "Me too. I would probably embarrass myself somehow."

Zee chuckled. She had a brilliant idea. She wanted Diana, or even Tetsu, to dispense *some* sort of justice, even though doing that was usually more of Jess's thing, with all her environmental activism.

"You know, Diana, I could cast a spell on that librarian and change her into a pig or something…"

Kara followed up, saying in a joking manner, "Do it! I'd love to fight a pig…and eat it."

Jess looked away in disgust. She hated these kinds of jokes, as a strict vegan. She even hated that "plant meat" crap that tasted like meat in hopes of bringing more meat-overs to the side of veggies.

"Not around me! I eat veggies all day, 24/7…I'm the queen of veggies…no meat here, please."

Karen voiced her concern with Zee's plan, as a person who felt vulnerable at times. She thought Zee had gone *too far*. She didn't want her friend to do something she'd regret.

"Zee, I don't know about that…you should write a strongly worded letter and publish it in the paper."

Babs shook her head. She knew that Karen meant well, but a couple paragraphs in a newspaper would *do little* to change public opinion in Metropolis. She snatched the TV remote and pressed the power button.

The TV flickered on. Reporters were talking about that day's court decision. "Another victory for the city of Metropolis over the *forces of mayhem*," the news anchor remarked. As the commercials started, Babs pressed the mute button.

Diana breathed deeply. "Thanks, everyone, I feel better already…I hope this all blows over."

She grumbled. She wished things were different.

She said solemnly, "I wish the city would *actually* recognize us for everything we do to help."

Everyone nodded. They hoped for the same.

Babs changed the channel to their favorite cartoon, focused on a group of women and their strange kid who fought for Earth. They all loved that animation so much, since it reminded them of a bit of themselves.

Meanwhile, many miles away, on the streets of the crime-ridden and polluted Gotham City, a girl with long blonde hair tied in two pigtails, with blue and red highlights, looked at a TV

screen, sitting behind a shattered store window riddled with bullet holes. She listened intently to the trial coverage.

Her light tan, palish skin, blue eyes, and red lipstick reflected off the glass.

She laughed maniacally. “I’m coming for you…Metropolis…just you wait…that library will be nothing but a pile of ashes…and that librarian my prize!”

She cackled as she threw a rock through the window, causing the TV to explode. Dressed like a jester, she walked away, ready to cause pandemonium wherever she went.

End Notes

Used information from various blog posts and pages on various fandom sites (Steven Universe and DC Super Hero Girls). Each jury has six people, per U.S. law which says that juries have between 6-12 people. Oath and affirmation statements adapted from the "Sworn testimony" Wikipedia page, along with use of information from Wikipedia pages such as "Cross-examination," "Redirect examination," and "Civil procedure." The "elderly White man with long-white hair and in blue robe" refers to the Librarian in an episode "Three Courageous Hearts" of She-Ra: Princess of Power. The "young woman who was fair skinned with pale taupe skin complexion, with brown hair tied up in a bun, conservatively dressed in blue blazer, grey undershirt, and two earrings, one in each ear" refers to a librarian in "The Library" episode of We Bare Bears. The "White middle-aged woman, with a light green blazer, grey collared shirt, and brown hair" refers to a librarian in the "Buddy's Book" episode of Steven Universe. The "Japanese woman with a blue blazer, brown skirt, and brown flats" refers to a librarian (a background character) in the "Sakura and Her Summer Holiday Homework" episode of Cardcaptor Sakura. The "elderly White woman with a White collared shirt, purple sweater, reading glasses, and nicely brushed grey hair" refers to the librarian in the first episode of Zevo-3. The “middle-aged librarian with yellow skin, pink blouse, and hair tied up in a pony tail” refers to a librarian in The Simpsons episode “Bart the Mother.” And yes, I counted all the people who were annoyed when Diana’s phone rang, along with those who saw them fighting, and they were: a White young woman with orange hair, yellow shorts, blue cardigan, light blue sweater; brown-haired, fair-skinned woman, with red v-neck t-shirt; White kid with brown hair, green hat, blue t-shirt; White kid with orangish hair, pink v-neck shirt; White kid with blonde hair, green headgear, red hoodie with short sleeves; Fair-skinned brown-haired woman with headphones; White kid with orangish hair, reddish long-sleeved shirt; Black woman with green shirt, brown hair; White man with blue shirt; White girl with blue jeans, brown hair; White girl with blue dress, hair in a ponytail; White guy with purple shirt, standing, reading book; Girl with purple hair, yellow dress; Woman with purple hair, white blouse; Guy with freckles, blonde hair, blue hoodie; and Girl with brownish hair, blue eyes, green blouse, blue pants. Also, at least five patrons, probably more, were there when the shelves fell, doing work quietly. At the end of this story, I leave it open for a continuation, although I'm not sure that will happen.

Works inspired by this one

The Librarian Tribunal Comes to Trolberg: Kaisa, Insidious Book Censors, and What Matters by lefemmerouge

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!